

Feb. 20, 1962

Approved For Release 2005/01/05 : CIA-RDP75-00149R000700440018-1

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CIA Blamed For 'Lag' in Atomic Race

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By JOHN McDERMOTT
Herald Staff Writer

U.S. Sen. Stuart Symington said in Miami Monday that the Russian nuclear threat is far greater than most Americans realize.

He blamed failures by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency for much of the predicament.

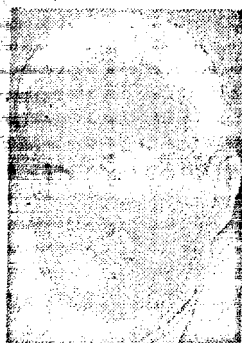
In a sobering address to the Dade County Bar Association at the Columbus Hotel, the Missouri Democrat said the United States was "duped" by the Soviets in 1953 into an informal world agreement against nuclear testing.

"As a result, they gained a 3½-year advantage on us," he declared. "If they get another 3½-year edge, our position may be hopeless."

He expressed hope that the recent shakeup in the CIA, ordered by President Kennedy, may have a far-reaching effect on preventing any more "miscalculations" of the Soviet position.

Symington, a former secretary of the Air Force and a top authority on defense matters, said it is imperative that this country move ahead at full speed with its own nuclear testing in the atmosphere.

And he stressed that the public be kept informed about the nation's true status in the military alignment against the Soviet Union. Theme of his ad-



Stuart Symington
... blames CIA

dress, delivered without notes, was "The People's Right to Know."

He said he is "appalled" at some of the proposals put forward advocating agreements with the Russians which would ban nuclear testing.

He said we should have learned from past experience that Nikita Khrushchev and

other Kremlin leaders cannot be trusted on this score.

The senator cited the decline of the U.S. position from the peak of 1946—immediately after World War II—to where it is today. He said this should be ample warning of what we face should we allow the Russians to out-manuever us any further.

Symington said that when Adlai Stevenson, the Democratic nominee for President in 1956, advocated a nuclear test ban, "I felt it was a mistake and said so." This was followed, he pointed out, by the Eisenhower Administration adopting the test-ban policy.

Suddenly, with only a few days warning, the Russians announced a year ago that they were going to conduct tests in the atmosphere. They made 40.

"Nobody could have launched such tests without long preparation," Symington pointed out in bolstering his point that CIA had failed to grasp what the Russians were doing while the United States stood still with its own experiments.

He said the Soviets have gone "far ahead" of the United States in many phases of rocket development and added that even if U.S. Astronaut John Glenn is successful in his three orbits of the earth, "we still will be far behind the Russians and their 17 orbits."

He estimated that it would be "at least three years" before the United States can hope to orbit a man 17 times around the globe.

Symington said the missile-launching Polaris Submarine is this nation's best nuclear weapon. And he said that had the United States failed to develop the hydrogen bomb, "I'm afraid ... our position today would be helpless and hopeless."